

THE CASE of the KENNET AND AVON CANAL
COMPANY with respect to the proposed
EXTENSION of their Canal from BATH
to BRISTOL.

IN the Year 1794, an Act was obtained to make a navigable Canal from the River Kennet at Newbury, to the River Avon at Bath. By this Canal a Communication is opened between London and Bath; but the great Object was not obtained of a complete Water Communication between London and Bristol, on Account of the present imperfect State of the Navigation of the River Avon from Bath to Bristol, and the Impossibility of rendering it a perfect Navigation.

As the Communication between London and Bristol was the ultimate Object of the Undertaking; ever since the passing of the Kennet and Avon Canal Act, the Company of Proprietors have entered into the Consideration of this Subject, and have employed Engineers to inform them in what Manner it might be best effected. The said Company were cautious of invading the Property in the Bath River Navigation, and have therefore made several Propositions to the Proprietors, which have been uniformly rejected.

Impressed with the Importance of the public Utility of this Communication, the Kennet and Avon Canal Company have, in the present Session, applied to Parliament for Power to make a Canal from Bath to Bristol, on the South Side of the River Avon, and have adopted a Line which promises every Advantage in Point of Execution; and although it appears that Objections, similar to those which obstruct the Progress of every great Work, exist, yet the Company, submitting the Justice of their Case to the Consideration of Parliament, are desirous and ready to make such Recompence to the Proprietors of the Land and of the Bath River Navigation, as shall be judged reasonable, consistent with the Execution of a Work, from whence they conceive the Public will derive the most important Advantages.

Unless the proposed Extension takes place, the Communication of the Western Parts of the Kingdom, viz. Southampton, Salisbury, Poole, Taunton, Exeter, and Bristol, with the Metropolis, and with each other, will be incomplete, and the Public in a great Measure deprived of the general Benefit expected from the various Canals now forming at those Places.

LONDON,
13th Feby. 1796.